

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Gdynia Airfield

DATE DISTR. 2 Aug 77

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1C
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NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (map)
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- Location. The Gdynia military airfield lies in the angle formed by the coast of the Gulf of Danzig on one side and the so-called "Hexengrund" ("Witches' Valley") on the other. The Hexengrund runs from the torpedo experimental station, built in the sea, to Gdynia and the harbor. The airfield is about two kilometers from the torpedo experimental station and about one kilometer from the coast of the Gulf of Danzig.
- Installations (See key to attached map for detailed description of installations): The runways, approaches, and buildings of this former German airfield were severely damaged during the war. The installations remained in ruins until 1946, when the Poles brought in German PWs to do reconstruction work. The technical equipment for the reconstruction work was very poor; machines were available only for the mixing of cement and asphalt. However, the runways were completely operational, and only part of the approaches still had to be repaired. Presumably the work has since been completed for all PWs were sent to Warsaw in the fall of 1948.
- Streets lead from the city and the Hexengrund to the airfield. In addition there is a cement road which connects the most important installations in the airfield. A narrow gauge railway, whose spurs were rebuilt by the PWs, connects the Hexengrund with the airfield and Gdynia harbor. However, in December 1947 several sections of the line had not yet been repaired, and the construction battalion was working on some locomotives, most of which were not ready for use.
- Activity at the airfield: at the end of 1947 there were rarely more than twenty planes on the field at a time. Russian fighter planes, used as training planes, participated in what source described as considerable flying activity. In addition, a British type plane (Verkehrsmachine), resembling a Douglas, landed daily at the Gdynia airfield. Planes were not parked in the hangars at night but were left on or near the cement aprons.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. Personnel doing reconstruction work: Five hundred PWs worked on the repair of the airfield. All but seventy of these were moved to Warsaw in December 1947, and the remaining seventy followed in the fall of 1948. In addition to the PWs, a Polish construction battalion worked in units of various size. Reconstruction work was under the direction of an air corps colonel. His brother, an engineer, supervised the technical work.

KEY TO ATTACHED MAP

1. Two runways which cross one another. One is 80 x 1200 meters; the other, 80 x 1800 meters. The bomb holes have been filled in. The runways, built on a firmly rolled layer of sand, consist of a twenty-centimeter thick layer of cement, topped by a seven-centimeter thick layer of asphalt.
2. A still intact hangar, which measures 100 x 80 meters and has a large cement apron.
3. Another cement apron which indicates the place where formerly a second hangar may have stood. Up to December 1947, no preparations had been made to rebuild this second hangar.
4. Cement parking places for one or two planes. They are surrounded by earthen embankments.
5. Anti-aircraft gun emplacements, which are still intact.
6. The former torpedo experimental station, dating from the time of the German occupation. This is a large, almost square building, built over the water and connected to the shore by a 200 meter long bridge which rests on piles. The station, severely damaged during the war, was almost completely demolished by the German PWs in the winter of 1946/1947. Up to December 1947 there were no indications that the installation was to be rebuilt.
7. The ruins of three buildings which apparently were used for military purposes by the Nazis.
8. Approximately ten pillboxes, dug into the rather steep slopes on both sides of the Hexengrund and well cemented. These pillboxes have been burned out and in part destroyed. They are connected with the railway line and apparently were used as ammunition depots.
9. Power station, in operation.
10. Two large machine shops.
11. Horse stables.
12. Officers' billets.
13. Three barracks for billeting the Polish air corps construction battalion.
14. Barracks for a construction battalion.
15. Gdynia PW Camp Nr. 6.
16. Former barracks city, now in ruins.

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